

MARVEL

COMICS 10

JUNE

NO.
64

MYSTERY



Miss AMERICA



MODERN CIVILIZATION TAKES NO STOCK IN THE FANTASTIC TALES OF WITCHES AND WITCHLORE, OR THE WEIRD AND MYSTERIOUS DOINGS OF THESE LEGENDARY EVIL DOERS! AND EVEN MORE SKEPTICAL IS A MERE SLIP OF A GIRL, MADELINE JOYCE, WHO IN HER CRIME FIGHTING ROLE OF **MISS AMERICA** ENCOUNTERS A SPINE CHILLING ADVENTURE WHEN SHE UN-EARTHS THE ---

"CLUE of WITCH'S ROCK"

MADELINE JOYCE, ON HER WAY TO SPEND A WEEK-END WITH FRIENDS IN THE BERKSHIRE MOUNTAINS, TRAVELS A TREACHEROUS ROAD BORDERING THE PRECIPICE --- WHEN SUDDENLY A CRY KNIFES THE NIGHT!

I LOST FOUR HOURS BY TAKING THE WRONG TURN BACK THERE! HOPE I'M RIGHT THIS TIME! M-M-M! WHAT'S THAT? SOUNDED LIKE A WOMAN'S SCREAM!



MADELINE ROUNDS THE TURN IN A BURST OF SPEED TOWARD THE ANGUISHED CRY!

OH! THAT FIGURE IS TRYING TO HURL A YOUNG GIRL OFF THAT ROCK! G-GOSH! IT'S A WITCH!



WITCH OR NOT? I'M NOT STANDING BY TO SEE MURDER! OH-OH! THAT AWFUL THING IS RUNNING AWAY!



SUDDENLY A HOLLOW MOCKING LAUGH SOUNDS FROM THE DARK--

FAINTED FROM FRIGHT! (GULP) THE WITCH?? AND GLOWING IN THE DARK??



I DON'T FANCY PLAYING "TAG" AT THIS LATE HOUR, BUT YOU'RE "IT" MR. OR MRS. WITCH! HERE I COME!



A FEW QUICK STRIDES AND THE FLEET-FOOTED GIRL IS ALMOST UPON THE GLOWING FIGURE, ONLY TO HAVE IT MYSTERIOUSLY VANISH OUT OF HER GRASP!



AGAIN MADELINE HEARS THE EERIE LAUGH AS SHE DASHES BACK TO THE CAR AND DISCOVERS THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL HAS DISAPPEARED!

THE WITCH?? LEADING OVER THE PRECIPICE?? AND THE GIRL IS GONE!



MADLINE DECIDES MISS AMERICA WILL HAVE TO TAKE OVER FROM THIS POINT!

MOMENTS LATER--

HOPE I'M RIGHT ABOUT THAT WITCH NOT THROWING THE GIRL OVER THE CLIFF BEFORE I GOT BACK! HELLO! WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE NEAR THAT INN?



IT'S THE GIRL! SHE'S HYSTERICAL!

WHAT HAPPENED? YOU'RE TREMBLING!

IT WAS THE WITCH! SHE TRIED TO THROW ME OFF WITCH'S ROCK!



MISS AMERICA HEARS ONE OF THE ONLOOKERS MAKE A STARTLING STATEMENT!

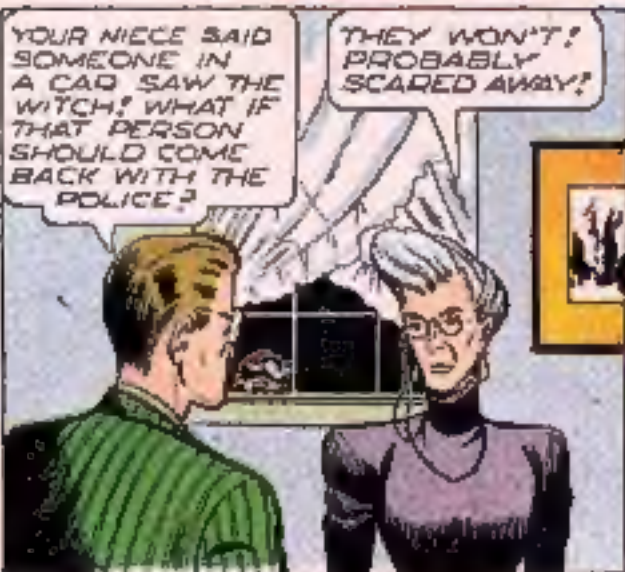


WITCHES! NONSENSE! SHE'S DELIRIOUS! TAKE HER TO HER ROOM!

SHE'S RIGHT! I, TOO, CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE WITCH AND SO DID MANY OTHER GUESTS AT THE INN!



I GATHERED FROM THE TALK THAT THE OLD LADY IS THE OWNER! THAT HANDSOME MAN, HER NEPHEW WHO MANAGES THE INN AND THAT WOMAN, HIS WIFE! I'LL LISTEN IN BY READING THEIR LIPS!



YOUR NIECE SAID SOMEONE IN A CAP SAW THE WITCH! WHAT IF THAT PERSON SHOULD COME BACK WITH THE POLICE?

THEY WON'T! PROBABLY SCARED AWAY!



BUT WE CAN'T TAKE CHANCES! TOO MUCH TALK ABOUT THE WITCH AMONG THE GUESTS ANYWAY! YOU GET RID OF JULIE LIKE I SAID! I'LL GET RID OF THE COSTUME!



SO THEY'RE GOING TO GET RID OF THE GIRL AND THE COSTUME, EH? THIS IS ONE CASE THAT'S GOING TO WIND UP QUICKLY! AH! HERE'S JULIE'S ROOM!



OH!

LOOK! IT'S MISS AMERICA!

RIGHT YOU ARE!

SORRY, SISTER! COULDN'T STOP TO AIM--IF I'M TO TAKE OUT THE ARMED INTERFERENCE!



SO SWIFT AND DEVASTATING IS MISS AMERICA'S ATTACK THAT THE NEPHEW AND HIS WIFE ARE SOON HER CRINGING CAPTIVES!



TAKE IT EASY, MISS! I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS THESE TWO SHOW ME WHERE THE COSTUMES ARE KEPT!



HOLD IT, GRANDMA! THAT'S CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE YOU'RE TRYING TO DESTROY!



THIS COSTUME PLUS YOUR TRYING TO KILL THE GIRL WILL FIT YOU THREE INTO A NICE COZY CELL!

KILL JULIE? YOU MUST BE INSANE!



NICE GOING! THE NEXT THING YOU'LL TELL ME IS YOU DIDN'T DRESS UP AS THE WITCH AND TRY TO THROW THAT GIRL OFF THE ROCK!

HOW COULD I? ALL THREE OF US WERE HERE WHEN JULIE CAME BACK! THE GUESTS CAN VOUCH FOR THAT!



HOW ABOUT THIS COSTUME?



IT IS MINE! I DID WEAR THE COSTUME AND POSE AS THE WITCH UP TO A FEW MONTHS AGO! MY INN'S REPUTATION IS FOUNDED ON THE LEGEND OF WITCH'S ROCK! IT WAS GOOD BUSINESS TO GIVE THE GUESTS A THRILL! I DID IT FOR THE ATMOSPHERE IT LENT THE INN! BUT IT WAS ALL HARMLESS I ASSURE!



SOME MONTHS AGO ONE OF THE GUESTS WAS FOUND DEAD IN THE GORGE AT THE FOOT OF WITCH'S ROCK! THE POLICE SAID IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! MY GUESTS STARTED WHISPERING THAT THE WITCH DID IT!



HMM? WAS IT AN ACCIDENT?

HOW DARE YOU SUGGEST THAT SHE IS A MURDERESS!

AUNTIE REALIZED THAT TO KEEP UP THE MASQUERADE AFTER THAT WAS DANGEROUS! WE KNOW THE EVIDENCE IS DAMAGING AGAINST HER! AND WHILE WE CAN'T OFFER PROOF, IT IS THE TRUTH!



STORY IS LOGICAL ENOUGH! BUT I'M NOT SATISFIED! PARTICULARLY WITH THE NEPHEW AND WIFE! PEOPLE WHO ARE INNOCENT DON'T PUT UP THE KIND OF FIGHT THEY DID AGAINST 'MISS AMERICA.' I MUST MAKE THEM THINK I BELIEVE THEM!



BLESS YOU, MISS AMERICA-- FOR BELIEVING A SADDENED OLD LADY!

I'LL REPORT IT TO THE POLICE AS YOU SUGGESTED, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!



MISS AMERICA, ZOOMING BACK TO HER ROADSTER NEAR WITCH'S ROCK, QUICKLY SWITCHES TO MADELINE AGAIN AND A FEW MINUTES LATER GOES ROARING UP TO THE INN WITH HORN HONKING!

IT WORKED! I AROUSED THE WHOLE INN! I WANT TO BE CERTAIN THAT WITCH IS AMONG MY LISTENERS WHEN I ANNOUNCE WHO I AM!



YOU MEAN... YOU SAVED THE GIRL FROM THE WITCH?

THEN YOU TOO, SAW THE WITCH?

I CERTAINLY DID! WHERE'S THE PHONE?



THE POPEYED LISTENERS HEAR MADELINE TELL THE POLICE THAT SHE DISCOVERED AN IMPORTANT CLUE NEAR WITCH'S ROCK!

I'LL MEET YOU IN TWENTY MINUTES!



MISS AMERICA, POISED ATOP WITCH'S ROCK, IS ABOUT TO SWEEP OFF MADELINE'S HAT AND CLOAK WHEN HER SENSITIVE EARS HEAR SLITHERING FOOTSTEPS!!

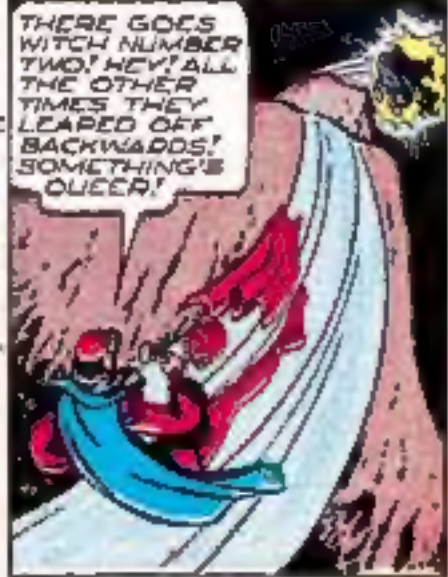


GOSH! THERE ARE TWO WITCHES! THE OTHER GOT ME UP HERE IN POSITION FOR THE SECOND TO KNOCK ME OVER INTO SPACE!



AFTER CARRYING OUT HER MASQUERADE AS THE HELPLESS GIRL, MISS AMERICA DIPS OFF THE HINDERING HAT AND CLOAK, WATCHING WITCH'S ROCK AS SHE FALLS THRU SPACE!

THERE GOES WITCH NUMBER TWO! HEY! ALL THE OTHER TIMES THEY LEAPED OFF BACKWARDS! SOMETHING'S QUERER!



THIS ONE, TOO, VANISHED BEFORE MY EYES ABOUT FIFTEEN FEET BELOW WITCH'S ROCK! WHAT'S THAT? AN OPENING IN THE CLIFF?!



WOW! A STRONG NET STRETCHED ON SPRING RODS FITTED INTO HOLLOW PIPES!



AN IRON RUNG LADDER LEADING UP TO WITCH'S ROCK! AND THIS TUNNEL DUG IN A STRAIGHT LINE TOWARD THE INN!



RACING ALONG THE TUNNEL, MISS AMERICA REACHES THE END WHICH SLOPES UP SHARPLY AND TERMINATES IN A CLEVERLY CONCEALED TRAP!



WHEN THE BODY OF THE MEDDLING GIRL IS FOUND IN THE MORNING, THE POLICE WILL NATURALLY BLAME IT ON THE WITCH!

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET MISS AMERICA TO TESTIFY THAT SHE CAUGHT YOUR AUNT TRYING TO BURN THE COSTUME?



OF COURSE! SHE WILL COME FORWARD WHEN AUNTIE IS HELD FOR THE MURDER OF THIS GIRL AND FOR THE ACCIDENT THAT HAPPENED MONTHS AGO! HA---HA!



WHAT ABOUT THE NET IN THE CAVE?

HA---HA! THAT'LL CLINCH IT! I HAD AUNTIE BUY ALL THE STUFF MONTHS AGO! THE STORE WILL TESTIFY TO THAT!



THEN AUNTIE'S MONEY AND INN WILL BE OURS!

MISS AMERICA?? WE'RE LOST!



YOUR GAME OF "WITCHES" IS OVER! NOW YOU'LL PLAY ANOTHER GAME WITH THE ELECTRIC CHAIR! AND YOUR AUNT CAN LIVE HER LIFE IN PEACE WITHOUT THE FEAR THAT ANY MORE WITCHES WILL BE HAUNTING WITCH'S ROCK!



THE END